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Golden Anniversary Convocation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the university's birthday, May 3, 1917. Recorded May 3rd 1967.

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Convocation starts with a brass band playing the Star Spangled Banner. After the anthem, J. T. Burdine Jr. of the University Baptist Church says a prayer. The announcer introduces Dr. William R. Wood. Dr. Wood reflects on the growth of the university and on the growth of the university's financial needs. Based on a financial report found in Bob Olsen's office, which covered the first twenty years of the university (starting May 3, 1917), the sum of combined assets of territorial, state and federal appropriations for the university was slightly under two million dollars. As of the Golden Anniversary Convocation, Dr. Wood estimates that two million dollars is about the sum requested as an increase over the previous level of appropriation.

Dr. Wood encourages the audience to look ahead to the future of the university and Alaska and predicts that the university will grow in significance based on the quality of work done at the university.

Dr. Wood introduces marshal William R. Cashen, a fixture of the university, joking he "came with the land grant". Prof. Cashen acknowledges President William Wood, Governor Wally Hickel, and the rest of the audience and speaks about the history of the university and its founding fifty years ago to the day. Prof. Cashen discusses delegate James Wickersham's role securing congressional legislation, extending provisions of the land grant college acts to AK in March, 1915 and laying the cornerstone on July 4, 1915. Wickersham's actions were documented in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner of the day.

Senator from the Fourth Division, Dan Sutherland from Poorman, AK introduced a bill to accept the land, which had been granted March 4, 1915, and create a corporation under the name of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in the Tanana Valley. It also called for the governor to appoint a board of trustees and appropriated \$60,000 for construction expansions. Sutherland worked closely with Andrew Nerland, Luther C. Hess, A.J. Nordale, and E.B. Collins (11:14), in the early legislative struggles for appropriations. Sutherland was a native of Nova Scotia and a commercial fisherman in Massachusetts before joining the 1898 gold rush and mining in the Koyukuk, at Nome, Council, Ophir, Klery Creek, and the Iditarod. Served as a republican senator for the first territorial legislature in 1812 and was reelected for a second four year term in 1916. Sutherland served as delegate to the U.S. Congress for ten years starting in 1920 and retired to Pennsylvania. The Territorial senate of 1917 had trouble selecting a president, but finally O.P. Hubbard, a lawyer from Valdez, was chosen.

The internal organization was only one of many problems confronting the Territorial legislature of 1917. On April 6th the U.S. congress and President Wilson declared war on Germany. On April 13th (sic April 12th according to the News Miner) Edward Krause, a convicted murderer, sawed through the bars of the

federal jail and escaped but was shot on Admiralty Island by a rancher three days later. On April 23, Treadwell mine on Douglas Island, which employed both William Cashen's father, Thomas Cashen, and grandfather, Nicholas King, suffered flooding and a cave in. These events contributed to misgivings about starting a college. Eventually, the bill passed by a one vote margin. The bill went to the governor J. F. A. Strong and on May 3rd, he signed Senate Bill 15 and created the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines which became the University of Alaska 18 years later. He wanted to further education in Alaska but felt it would be advisable to delay construction until materials could be procured at fair prices. Prof. Cashen reads the statement Gov. Strong made upon accepting the bill.

The announcer introduces the presentation of the university mace by Dr. Hugh B Fate. Dr. Fate acknowledges the university president, board of regents and honored guests. Dr. Fate speaks of the mace's use as a weapon in medieval days and its use as a symbol of authority by Richard the I or Philip the II. The mace is now used in academic and ecclesiastic contexts to signify that the proceedings are official. The creation of the mace was discussed for several years by Alumni Association. It was created by Ron Senungetuk using silver, jade and Brazilian rosewood. Dr. Fate discussed the symbolism of the mace and presents the mace, on behalf of the University Alumni Association to President Wood.

President Wood discusses his pleasure upon receiving the mace and presents it to the marshal, Prof. Cashen. Prof. Cashen accepts, saying, "I shall carry it proudly and, really, it's something that I have needed."

The announcer introduces Choir of the North and they sing "Ad Summum."

An unknown speaker, on behalf of the Alaska State Centennial Commission, states he appreciates the institution of the University of Alaska and presents a medallion to Mr. Elmer Rasmuson.

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson accepts the medallion, thanks the judge and praises the university as the "jewel of the North." Mr. Rasmuson reminisces about the growth of the university and enrollment during his 17 years on the Board of Regents, speaks about the university's current status and its future. Mr. Rasmuson points out that the university's fiftieth anniversary and Governor's Day, fall on the same day. Mr. Rasmuson states how glad he is to have Governor Hickel as a supporter of the university and mentions that Gov. Hickel is on the board of trustees of the Alaska Methodist University, a sister university to the University of Alaska.

Mr. Rasmuson presents the medallion to Gov. Hickel.